

REMARKS

Claims 5, 9, 14, 19, 20, 23 and 24 are pending. Claims 5 and 9 have been rewritten into independent form, claim 20 has been amended to depend from claim 5 and claims 3, 4, 8, 12, 17 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter is believed to be added by way of this amendment.

Claim 22 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 17 of Elkins (U.S. 6,178,562) and under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Molloy (U.S. 5,086,771). Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 12, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gildersleeve, et al. (U.S. 6,117,164) in view of Molloy and Gammons, et al. (U.S. 4,149,541). Claims 3, 4, 8, 12 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice and claim 20 has been amended to depend from claim 5.

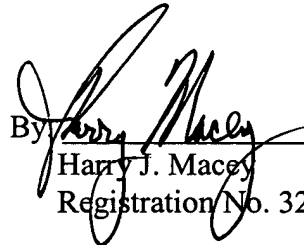
Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17, 19, 20, 23 and 24 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Elkins (U.S. 6,178,562) claim 17 in view of Gammons, et al. Claims 5 and 23 have been rewritten into independent form, claim 20 amended to depend from claim 5, claims 3, 4, 8, 12 and 17 cancelled without prejudice and a terminal disclaimer filed herewith. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 5, 9, 14, 19, 20, 23, and 24 are in condition for allowance and request the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date.

If a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and/or the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due, including additional claims fees, in connection with the filing of this document and the accompanying terminal disclaimer to Deposit Account No. 50-1947 referencing Attorney Docket No. COO-1.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
Harry J. Macey
Registration No. 32,818

LAW OFFICE OF HARRY J. MACEY
720 Bair Island Road, Suite 100
Redwood City, California 94063
Tel/Fax: 650.654.9555